

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Personnel Management, focusing on whether the Office of Personnel Management is positioned to be the Federal government's leader in personnel policy today and in the future, after receiving testimony from David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and Linda M. Springer, Director, Office of Personnel Management.

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNING STATEMENTS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the purpose, history, and legal significance of presidential signing statements, which are mainly issued when a President signs new legislation into law, after receiving testimony from Michelle E. Boardman, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice; Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Harvard Law School; Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Christopher S.

Yoo, Vanderbilt University Law School, Nashville, Tennessee; and Bruce Fein, Fein & Fein LLC, and Nicholas Quinn Rosenkranz, Georgetown University Law Center, both of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

HEALTHCARE GLOBALIZATION

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine if medical tourism can reduce health care costs relating to the globalization of health care, after receiving testimony from Arnold Milstein, Mercer Health & Benefits, San Francisco, California; Bonnie Grissom Blackley, Blue Ridge Paper Products Inc., Canton, North Carolina; Rajesh Rao, IndUShealth, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina; Bruce Cunningham, University of Minnesota Department of Plastic Surgery, Minneapolis, on behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons; and Howard Staab and Maggi Ann Grace, both of Carrboro, North Carolina.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 5 public bills, H.R. 5688–5692; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 436–438 and H. Res. 894, were introduced.

Pages H4679–80

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H4680–81

Reports Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 4125, to permit the Administrator of General Services to make repairs and lease space without approval of a prospectus if the repair or lease is required as a result of damages to buildings or property attributable to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita (H. Rept. 109–532).

Page H4679

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Wilson of New Mexico to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H4559

Recess: The House recessed at 9:08 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Page H4562

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Freedom to Display the American Flag Act of 2005: H.R. 42, to ensure that the right of an individual to display the flag of the United States on residential property not be abridged; **Pages H4574–76**

Seasoned Customer CTR Exemption Act of 2006: H.R. 5341, amended, to amend section 5313 of title 31, United States Code, to reform certain requirements for reporting cash transactions; and

Pages H4576–82

Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States: H. Res. 854, to recognize National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States. **Pages H4282–86**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on yesterday, Monday, June 26th:

Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006: Conference report on H.R. 889, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, by a (2/3) yeas-and-

nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 320; and **Page H4587–88**

Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006: H.R. 4843, amended, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, by a (2/3) yeas-and-nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 321. **Page H4588**

Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006: The House passed H.R. 4973, to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program by a yeas-and-nay vote of 416 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 325. **Pages H4589–H4617**

Agreed to:

Oxley amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) contains a number of technical and conforming changes, including: clarification that the provisions governing the phasing-in of actuarial rates for nonresidential and non-primary residence properties will apply on the date on which the director of FEMA submits a required report to Congress, as opposed to the date of this legislation’s enactment; clarification that the \$1 million cap on penalties for non-enforcement of mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements will not apply to a regulated institution or enterprise, for a calendar year, if in any 3 of the past 5 calendar years that institution or enterprise was assessed a penalty of \$1 million; clarifications regarding the requirements for states to request FEMA participation in state-run disaster claims mediation programs and certain other provisions of the bill related to the claims mediation process; clarification of the timeline for FEMA’s inclusion of certain features on updated floodplain maps; and clarification of the FEMA Director’s authority regarding his ability to issue interim post-disaster flood elevation building requirements; **Pages H4598–99**

Burton amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) codifies existing notification regulations and further requires written notification, by first-class mail, to each property owner affected by a proposed change in flood elevations, prior to the 90-day appeal period. Notification would include an explanation of the appeal process and contact information for responsible officials; **Pages H4599–H4601**

Garrett amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) requires any purchaser of a pre-FIRM primary residential home to pay phased-in actuarial flood insurance prices using the same phase-in structure that non-residential and non-primary homes are

currently subject to in the legislation, after the enactment of the bill; **Pages H4601–02**

Taylor of Mississippi amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) instructs the Inspector General of DHS to conduct an investigation of the Hurricane Katrina damage claims adjusted by the insurance companies that contract with the National Flood Insurance Program under the “Write-Your-Own” program to determine whether, and to what extent, the companies improperly assigned damages to flooding covered by NFIP that should have been paid by the windstorm coverage provided by the insurance companies. The Inspector General would be required to report the findings to Congress no later than 6 months after enactment; **Pages H4602–03**

Pickering amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) corrects an inequity in current law by exempting all purchases or transfers of property by any means, and not just purchases via a loan as under current law, from the 30-day waiting period for purposes of flood insurance coverage; **Page H4603**

Matsui amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) amends Section 16 of the bill to ensure that, when practical, FEMA utilizes emerging weather forecasting technologies in updating its flood maps. This will ensure that FEMA has the highest quality information when it works to determine the level of risk for vulnerable geographies. It would not impose any additional financial mandates on the NFIP. In addition, the amendment would make sure the program has the best information possible, while emphasizing the importance of this emerging technology; **Pages H4603–04**

Johnson, Eddie Bernice, of Texas amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) creates a program to educate communities about the update to the flood insurance program rate map; **Pages H4604–06**

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) adds a provision into the GAO study on the status of the national flood insurance program for certain pre-FIRM properties that seeks to identify any inconsistencies in eligibility standards for pre-FIRM coverage; **Page H4604**

Matsui amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) directs GAO to conduct a study on potential methods, practices and incentives that would increase the degree to which low-income property owners living in high-risk locations participate in the national flood insurance program. This study should be reported to Congress no later than 1 year after enactment of this legislation; **Pages H4606–07**

Ruppersberger amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) requires the FEMA Director to issue regulations and revise materials that are provided to policy holders using “plain language” and “easy to understand terms and concepts”; **Page H4607**

Jindal amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) clarifies that “demolish and rebuild” should be a mitigation option available under the regular Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. The “demolish and rebuild” option is specifically allowed under the Severe Repetitive Loss Program created by the 2004 reform act and FEMA has interpreted the difference to mean it cannot approve the measure under FMA; **Pages H4607–08**

Davis, JoAnn, of Virginia (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) directs FEMA to utilize “a methodologically valid approach for sampling files selected for operational reviews and quality assurance claims reinspections.” A 2005 GAO study highlighted FEMA’s oversight failures, stating that, “FEMA cannot . . . determine the overall accuracy of claims settled for specific flood events or assess the overall performance of insurance companies and their adjusters in fulfilling their responsibilities for the NFIP” (GAO–06–183T National Flood Insurance Program). The amendment improves the oversight and accountability of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and **Page H4608**

Davis, JoAnn, of Virginia (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) extends the proof of loss filing deadline to 180 days and would prohibit NFIP from denying claims solely for failing to meet the deadline and makes this change retroactive to September 18, 2003. **Pages H4608–09**

Rejected:

Rohrabacher amendment (No. 14 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) that sought to provide that, in a case in which a Federally funded flood control project causes an area to become at greater risk of flooding than it otherwise would have been, residents in that area shall be provided flood insurance using the price formula that would have applied had the offending flood control project not been built, or if no flood insurance would otherwise have been required, they shall be provided flood insurance at no cost. The determination of this status would be made by the Director of the National Flood Insurance Program (by a recorded vote of 98 ayes to 327 noes, Roll No. 322); **Pages H4609–11, H4614**

Pearce amendment (No. 15 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) that sought to immediately end all flood insurance subsidies on nonresidential, vacation, and second homes (by a recorded vote of 76 ayes to 347 noes, Roll No. 323); and **Pages H4611–12, H4615**

Miller of Michigan amendment (No. 16 printed in H. Rept. 109–530) that sought to instruct the Director of the National Flood Insurance Program, upon the completion of the study by the International Joint Committee of the Upper Great Lakes, to request the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a new flood map for the region to help the NFIP

develop 100-year and 500-year flood plains. The amendment also prohibits flood evaluations in the upper Great Lakes to be increased until the aforementioned is completed (by a recorded vote of 416 ayes to 4 noes, Roll No. 325).

Pages H4612–14, H4615–16

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H4617**

H. Res. 891, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question without objection.

Pages H4565–68, H4587–88

Agreed that the Clerk will effect a technical correction in the engrossment of the resolution.

Page H4617

Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2007: The House began consideration of H.R. 5672, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. Further consideration is expected to continue tomorrow, Wednesday, June 28th. **Pages H4617–38, H4639–65**

Agreed to limit the number of amendments made in order for debate and the time limit for debate on each amendment during further proceedings.

Pages H4638–39

Agreed to:

Wolf amendment to increase funding (by offset) for the Missing Alzheimer Program by \$1,000,000;

Pages H4639–40

Reichert amendment to increase funding (by offset) for Justice Assistance Grants by \$25,000,000;

Pages H4642–44

Boswell amendment to increase funding (by offset) for the Criminal Records Upgrade Program by \$1,500,000;

Page H4644

Brown-Waite, Ginny of Florida amendment to increase funding (by offset) for the Violence Against Women Act by \$10,000,000;

Pages H4644–45

Johnson of Connecticut amendment to increase funds (by offset) for the FBI’s Innocent Images Program by \$3,300,000;

Pages H4651–52

Barrow amendment to increase funding (by offset) for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program by \$25 million;

Page H4657

Obey amendment to increase funding (by offset) for the Legal Services Corporation by \$25,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 237 ayes to 185 noes, Roll No. 326);

Pages H4640–42, H4662

Velázquez amendment that sought to increase funds (by offset) for the direct and guaranteed loan programs by \$40,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 214 ayes to 207 noes, Roll No. 327); and

Pages H4645–48, H4662–63

Kennedy of Minnesota amendment that sought to increase funding (by offset) to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program by \$50 million (by a recorded vote of 291 ayes to 129 noes, Roll No. 330). **Pages H4657–61, H4664–65**

Rejected:

Nadler amendment that sought to increase funds (by offset) for the FBI by \$40,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 176 ayes to 243 noes, Roll No. 328); and **Pages S4649–50, H4663–64**

Stearns amendment (No. 22 printed in the Congressional Record of June 26th) that sought to increase funding (by offset) for expenses necessary of the Federal Prison System by \$500,000 (by a recorded vote of 163 ayes to 257 noes, Roll No. 329). **Pages H4653–54, H4664**

Withdrawn:

Millender-McDonald amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn which sought to increase funding (by offset) for the Department of Justice Drug Court Programs by \$5 million. **Page H4661**

Point of Order sustained against:

The proviso, beginning on pages 15, line 18 thru page 16, line 4,4652–53 constituted legislation in an appropriations bill; **Pages H4652–53**

Mollohan amendment that sought to increase funding for State and local law enforcement authorization grants; and **Pages S4655–56**

Kennedy of Minnesota amendment that sought to increase funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program by \$532 million. **Pages S4656–57**

H. Res. 890, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 319, after agreeing to order the previous question without objection. **Pages H4568–74, H4586–87**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H4681.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and seven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4587, H4587–88, H4588, H4614, H4615, H4615–16, H4616, H4662, H4662–63, H4663–64, H4664, and H4664–65. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at midnight.

Committee Meetings

VETERANS AFFAIRS DATA SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, held a hearing on Veterans Affairs Data Security. Testimony was heard from R. James

Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and public witnesses.

GROUND EQUIPMENT/ROTORCRAFT RESET STRATEGIES

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Army and Marine Corps reset strategies for ground equipment and rotorcraft. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: GEN Peter J. Schoomaker, USA., Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; and GEN Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

MAKING INTERNET SAFE FOR CHILDREN

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Making the Internet Safe for Kids: The Role of ISPs and Social Networking Sites.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

HI-TECH INFORMATION/CONTENT PROTECTION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet held a hearing entitled “The Audio and Video Flags: Can Content Protection and Technological Innovation Coexist?” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CLINICAL LAB QUALITY

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources held a hearing entitled “Clinical Lab Quality: Oversight Weaknesses Undermine Federal Standards.” Testimony was heard from Leslie Aronovitz, Director, Health Division, GAO; Thomas Hamilton, Director, Survey and Certification Group, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census held a hearing entitled “Moving the CDBG Program Forward: A Look at the Administration’s Reform Proposal. Where Do We Go From Here?” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: Pamela Hughes Patenaude, Assistant Secretary, Office of Community Planning and Development; and Todd M. Richardson, Senior Analyst, Office of Policy Development and Research; and the following officials of GAO: Stanley J. Czerwinski, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Strategic Issues; and Michael Springer, Assistant Director, Strategic Issues.